

ROUTON MOUNDS

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 31.703888 Longitude: -91.805777

Driving Directions:

— From La 8 in Harrisonburg, head south on La 124. Go 4.0 miles to Routon Road; turn left. Go 1.4 miles to Estate Drive; turn right. Go 0.4 mile to stop sign and marker.

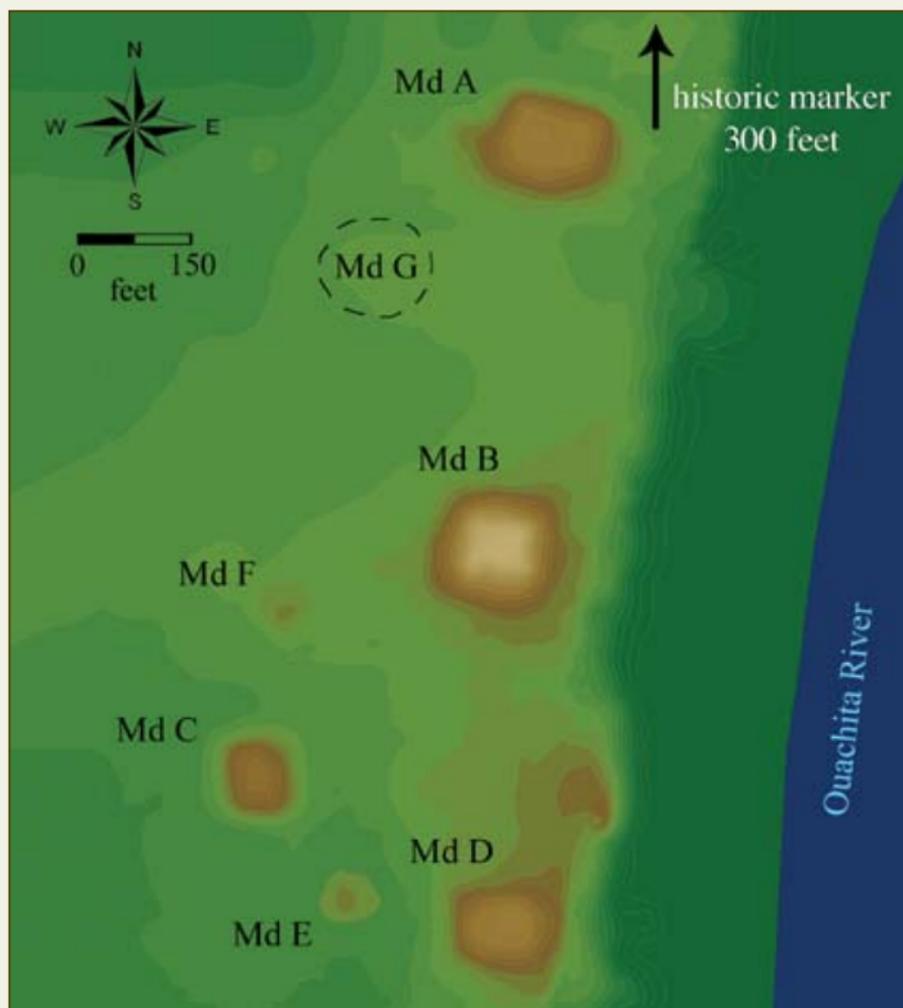
— From US 84 in Jonesville, head north on La 124. Go 5.7 miles to Routon Road; turn right. Go 1.4 miles to Estate Drive; turn right. Go 0.4 mile to stop sign and marker.

Number of Mounds: 7

Number of Visible Mounds: 3–4

Summer Viewing: Fair

Winter Viewing: Good



Routon is the largest Coles Creek mound group on the Mounds Trail, and it is exceptionally well preserved. Although only a small portion of the site is visible, a visit in the fall/winter is rewarding. It's about 500 feet west of the Ouachita River and includes seven mounds: four rectangular platform mounds and three smaller dome-shaped ones. Coring of the platform mound closest to the marker (Md. A) found two, perhaps three, stages of construction. Looking south, over the west side of Md. A, is the largest mound (Md. B); it is 23 feet high and about 230 feet square at its base; at its summit, it's about 65 by 50 feet. Md. B and two of the platform mounds (Mds. C and D, not visible) form an equilateral triangle, with dome-shaped mounds at the midpoints of two sides of the triangle. Some of the mounds are single-stage; others are at least two-stage. Charcoal samples date the site to between AD 1050 and 1150 (Coles Creek period). □